

## Letting Christmas Become a Season

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Luke 2

One of the great opportunities we have these days is to savor the Christmas season. Christmas is not a single day; it's a season. It is a two (sometimes three) week period in which to enter more deeply into the mystery of the One who came to become one of us - to save us from our sins.

So often Christmas day seems to come and go very quickly, and with it, the spirit of the Christmas season can be lost in the process of cleaning up, finishing left-overs, traveling or returning gifts. There is a religious value to these days after Christmas which we can give ourselves to with simply a little focus. Having prayed that our Lord might come to us, we can let the reality of his coming enter more deeply into our daily experience. We do that by savoring the story and letting his being one with us become a more conscious reality as these stories intersect with our daily lives. For example, in the rush of Christmas, and I can ask myself if I took time to imagine myself there in the stable, and take it all in, as a personal witness. Did I really listen to what Mary and Joseph said to each other? Did I let myself be moved by how open the shepherds were to this mystery and how transformed they were by it? Did I ask Mary if I could hold her child? What happened within me as I beheld my Savior so small, so vulnerable, with such tiny fingernails and with such a breath that would one day expire on the cross, but would be raised to breathe the Holy Spirit into his followers and into us all?

We can take each of the gospel stories and let ourselves become a part of the story or let the story become a part of our lives. The Epiphany is part of the powerful story according to St. Matthew. While Luke's account reminds us of the poverty of his coming and his union with the lowly of the earth, in Matthew we can almost hear the drum beats of danger. Herod is out to kill the child. In spite of the cleverness of the Magi to return another way, many innocents are slaughtered.

The Holy Family flees to Egypt and Jesus enters the mystery of his people's slavery and liberation. Every one of us who has every been "trapped" in any way can identify with this story. And, we can let this story enter our lives. Jesus became one with us in all the ways we are not safe or free from fear. Jesus came so that none of us should ever feel alone in whatever has happened to us, however secret, however damaging. This is where we can taste the power of the freedom Jesus brings us in his surrendering to his own mission from his Father.

Perhaps the Feast of the Holy Family will be a time to reach deeper into our desires and to ask for graces for our family. This might be a wonderful time for us to contemplate the hidden life of Jesus. Apart from the glimpse we get of the 12 year old Jesus being left behind in Jerusalem, the scriptures are silent about the thirty years of Jesus' life as an ordinary part of the Nazareth community. Again, with the contemplative power of imagination, we can walk the dusty streets of this small town where Jesus grew up. We can watch the toddler Jesus at home, listening to his mother and foster father singing the psalms at night. We can picture the little boy Jesus playing with his friends. What a joy it can be to imagine the young Jesus learning the carpenter trade from Joseph, even picturing them delivering the chairs and tables, doors and wagons they made together. The young man Jesus must have been a stunning personality, yet later people would be surprised at his charisma, saying "Isn't this the carpenter's son?" These many years he lived in a fairly ordinary, hidden way, place him in solidarity with our ordinary day to day lives. He knew work, he knew service, he had friends and he loved family. We suppose that Joseph died during those years. Jesus knew the grief of the loss of one who had held him and nurtured him and became an earthly father to him. Reflections like these, no matter how they occur in our week, will allow Jesus to come very close to us these days.

This Christmas Season culminates in the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. It is very consoling to contemplatively imagine the discernment process Jesus went through to decide to leave home and to move down toward the River Jordan where he must have heard that his cousin John was baptizing. Of course, Mary let him go and, of course, she blesses him for his mission. What a precious scene to enjoy! And, there at the Jordan, Jesus and John meet again. If John leapt in his mother Elizabeth's womb, how much more now did his heart soar as Jesus came to assume his role as the one who would free us from our sins. But, first, there had to be this part of the Incarnation and this epiphany. Here Jesus becomes one of us in a new way. Paul says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." (2 Cor. 5:21) And, there is the great manifestation of God, witnessing to Jesus: My beloved Son; listen to him. We can conclude this wonderful Christmas Season asking for the grace to be one with Jesus whose mission from the Father he invites us to share.



And a little Christmas cheer...

#### CHRISTMAS







# THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:46-47

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

# STAFF DIRECTORY

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#### The Brockton Catholic Tri-Parishes

Visit us on the web at <u>brocktoncatholic.org</u>
The emergency phone number for a parish priest after business hours is at ext. 301 via the parish office number.

**Our Lady of Lourdes** 

439 West Street Brockton, MA 02301

Tel: 508-586-4715 Fax: 508-584-6257

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Christ the King Parish

54 Lyman St. Brockton, MA 02302

St. Edith Stein Parish

71 East Main Street Brockton, MA 02302

### **Bulletin Deadline**

Please remember that for any items for the bulletin, please submit no later than **3 pm on Monday.** Thank you!

**Finance & Operations Manager:** John Casey john.casey@brocktoncatholic.org | ext. 201

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Office Assistant: Janice Sutherland

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### Sacrament of Marriage for all Parishes

Please contact your parish office at least one year prior to your proposed wedding date. You will need to meet with Fr. Matt before any further plans are made.

### Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms must be booked 4 weeks prior to the requested date. Please call the parish office for available Baptism dates.

#### Sacrament of the Sick

Who can receive this sacrament? Those who are chronically ill, are having treatments or will be having surgery this month. If someone you know is unable to come to Mass or is hospitalized and wants to receive this sacrament, please call Scott Fearing.

#### RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you or someone you know interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church, or becoming Catholic? The *Rite of Christian Initiation* program is for students and adults who have not received their sacraments (Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and/or Confirmation) at the usual ages. Contact Scott Fearing for more information.

<u>The Rosary</u> is prayed before daily Mass at Christ the King and St. Edith Stein parishes, and after the daily Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes.



### **Christ the King**

Thu 12/30

9:00

Maggie Nicolas, birthday thanksgiving

### **Our Lady of Lourdes**

Sun 12/26 10:30

Deceased members of the Willis Stockbridge family, remembrance

1:00

Barbara Fleming, 12th anniversary

### Saint Edith Stein

Sun 12/26

10:30

Margaret George, remembrance

### **WEEKLY PRAYER**

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf.

5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday:

1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday:

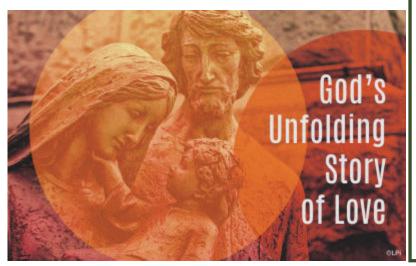
1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/

Mt 2:1-12







### Parish Gifts for the Month of December

### For Christ the King

Thank you to John Dubrowski For the gift of altar bread, in loving memory of Blanche Dubrowski

### For Our Lady of Lourdes

Thank you to Maggie Nicolas For the gift of altar candles, in loving memory of The Nicolas Family

Thank you to the Joe & Cathy Duford For the gift of altar bread, in loving memory of The Duford & Lamont Families

Thank you to the Catholic Daughters, Court 2396 For the gift of altar wine, in loving memory of deceased members

### For St. Edith Stein

Thank you to the Lucy Family For the gift of altar candles, in loving memory of **Bob** Lucy



### **Christmas 2021 Schedule**

December 24th, Christmas Eve

Christ the King	9AM Daily Mass			
Our Lady of Lourdes	9 AM Daily Mass			
Christ the King	4 PM Vigil Mass			
Our Lady of Lourdes	4 PM Vigil Mass			
St. Edith Stein	4 PM Vigil Mass			
St. Edith Stein Cape Verdean Community	8 PM Vigil Mass			
Christ the King Haitian Community	12AM Midnight Mass			
St. Edith Stein	12AM Midnight Mass			

### December 25th, Christmas Day

St. Edith Stein Cape Verdean Community	8:00 AM		
Our Lady of Lourdes	8:00 AM		
Christ the King	9:00 AM		
Our Lady of Lourdes	10:00 AM		
St. Edith Stein	10:30 AM		
Christ the King Haitian Community	12:00 PM		
St. Edith Stein Cape Verdean Community	1:00 PM		

There will be no 4 PM Vigil Mass on Christmas Day. December 26th is the Day of the Holy Family. It will be a regular Mass schedule, with the required Sunday obligation, despite Christmas falling on a Saturday.

# Tri-Parish Confession Schedule for Weekend of Christmas

Usually confessions are held before Masses on Fridays and Saturdays, but due to Christmas falling on Saturday, confessions will be offered on an appointment-basis. Please call the parish office if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the week of Christmas, and we will try to accommodate. The usual confession schedules will resume on January 1st.

### Mass Schedules & Information

www.BrocktonCatholic.org

### Christ The King (CTK)

Saturday Mass 4PM in English

Sunday Masses 9 AM, English; & 12 PM Haitian

Creole

Daily Mass 9AM Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Schedule

Monday evenings 6PM - 9PM

Adoration (Except on Holidays)

Pre-Baptismal class Required - call the office for

updated information

4th weekend of the month on

Baptisms - English Saturday, 1 pm

Baptisms - Haitian 1st weekend of the month on

Creole Saturday, 1 pm

### **Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL)**

Saturday Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday Masses 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM

Daily Mass Schedule

9AM. Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Adoration Chapel Open Monday - Friday 9AM- 2PM.

Closed holidays

Required - Call for updated

Pre-Baptismal class information

information

Baptisms 2nd weekend of the month on

Saturday, 1 pm

### Saint Edith Stein (SES)

Saturday Mass 4PM English, 7PM Cape Verdean

Creole

Sunday Masses

8AM Cape Verdean, 10:30AM

English, & 1PM Cape Verdean

Paily Mass

9AM Monday, Wednesday & 8AM

Schedule Saturday

Cape Verdean
Daily Mass
5:30 PM Wednesday & 7PM Friday

Pre-Baptismal class Required online Virtual class - Call

the office

Baptisms - English

1st weekend of the month on

Saturday, 1 pm

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Baptisms - Cape Verdean Creole

4th weekend of the month on
Saturday, 1 pm. Baptismal prep

class on Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Adoration 7 PM Fridays, offered by the Cape

Verdean community

### FAITH FORMATION 2021 - 2022 SCHEDULE

Here the upcoming dates for the 2021-2022 Faith Formation Classes will be posted. Please look at this box for any information on updated times and cancellations.

# For All Three Parishes for Grades 1-8

Grades 1-4 are now all in person. Grades 5-8 are now all in person.

# For Confirmation I & II (Typically Grades 9 & 10)

CTK: Lesson 5 - Confirmation Levels I & II Sunday, January 23rd, 6:30PM-7:45PM in the CTK Parish Hall

SES: Lesson 6 - Confirmation Levels I & II Monday, January 10th, 6:30PM-7:45PM in the SES Parish Hall

OLOL: Lesson 5 - Confirmation Level I & II Sunday, January 9th, 6:30PM - 7:30PM in the OLOL Parish Hall

### For the Cape Verdean Community

SES: RCIA (Adults 18+), Saturday, January 8th, 4:00 PM at Trinity Catholic Academy, Lower Campus

**7th - 10th Grade; First Communion I,** Saturday, January 8th, 5:30PM-6:30 PM at Trinity Catholic Academy, Lower Campus

Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 3rd - 6th Grade, First Communion I, RCIA (age 13-16), Youth Group, Sunday, January 9th, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM at Trinity Catholic Academy, Lower Campus



### **Tri-Parish Survey**

We are looking to update the Mass schedule for the Tri-Parishes in the new year, so please take the Tri-Parish survey. There are copies near the exits and where the bulletins are.

Please especially fill out the bottom of the sheet, detailing what changes you would like.

The survey will continue until the end of Advent.

Any questions or concerns, please call the parish office.
Thank you!



### **Coming Back to Church**

### **Question:**

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

#### **Answer:**

Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

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# MASK UP!



Per Cardinal Sean O'Malley's directive, masks must be worn starting this weekend, December 18th, and ending on January

17th, 2022. Anyone over the age of 5 must wear a mask, only to be taken off to do duties during Mass or receive the Eucharist.

Any questions or concerns please reach out to the parish office for more information.

Thank you!



Over the coming months, Catholics from around the world will be participating in the Synod on Synodality.

### What does that mean?

Here in Boston it means that we will be gathering, as parishes and as a diocese to pray together and to invite the Holy Spirit to help us to listen deeply to one another, and we will talk together about how best to do that.

So, for instance, a parish council may get together and ask "How can we as a parish council do a better job of letting the voices of all our parishioners be heard, even those who are not a part of an inner circle or who might be marginalized for whatever reason?"

The archdiocese and the church around the world will be engaging in the same sort of conversation. We pray that the Lord will open our hearts to Him and to all of our people.

The link for doing the survey is: <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/aPadVsPFtg">https://forms.office.com/r/aPadVsPFtg</a>. It will also be emailed out for those on the parish listsery. For more information, please reach out to the parish office.

### **Spiritual Development Committee**

Would you like to be involved in putting together programs, guest speakers, and other initiatives for the spiritual development of the Tri-Parishes? The evangelization assistant is looking to reboot the Spiritual Development Committee for the next year. Call the parish office to sign up.



### Your Sacrificial Giving to the Tri-Parishes: 12/6/2021 - 12/12/2021

	Christ the King	Our Lady of Lourdes	St. Edith Stein	Tri Parish Total
Offertory	\$6,464	\$9,852	\$7,005	\$23,321
Budget/Need	\$5,500	\$6,700	\$7,600	\$19,800
YTD This Year Actual	\$105,226	\$129,749	\$152,240	\$387,215
YTD Budget/Need	\$132,000	\$160,800	\$182,400	\$475,200
YTD Budget Shortfall	\$(21,310)	\$(21,199)	\$(23,146)	\$(65,655)
Last Year	\$3,561	\$4,578	\$4,080	\$12,219
This year vs. Last year	181.5%	215.2%	171.7%	190.9%
YTD Last Year	\$95,487	\$119,815	\$148,463	\$363,765
YTD vs. Last Year	115.9%	116.5%	107.3%	112.6%
Text week's 2nd collection:	Paris	sh Budget		

### 2021-2022 Grand Annual Appeal Results

	Christ the		Our Lady of e King Lourdes		St Edith Stein		Total
Goal	\$	30,000	\$	30,000	\$	30,000	\$ 90,000
Total to date	\$	31,248	\$	19,624	\$	8,193	\$ 59,065
% of goal		104.29	%	65.4	%	27.39	% 65.6%

#### \* Notes:

- 1) Includes on-line giving
- 2) Results are through December 12th

We want to congratulate the Haitian community for holding a special fundraiser for the Grand Annual that led CTK to be the first parish to reach its financial goal. Pictured to the right is Marquise Ambroise holding the twenty thousand dollar check and presenting it to Fr. Matt Westcott. An amazing effort done by our fellow parishioners. May God continue to bless you for your generosity.



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